

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Caia Park Community Council held remotely via Zoom on
14th January 2021

Cllr M. King (Chair) A/V
*Cllr M. J. Downward (Vice Chair)

Cllr B. Cameron (A/V)	Cllr J. Johnson (A/V)
* Cllr L. C. Crawford	* Cllr S. Jones
* Cllr A. K. Gregory	Cllr C. Lloyd (A)
Cllr B. Halley (A)	Cllr L. M. Platt (A/V)
Cllr C. Harper (A/V)	Cllr C. Powell (A/V)
Cllr A. J. Jeorrett (A/V)	Cllr Paul Williams (A/V)
*Absent	

Also present:

Supt Helen Corcoran & Insp Luke Hughes
Ms. Alison Watkin & Ms. Alison Reilly
Mr G. Brown

N. Wales Police
Wrexham CBC
Caia Park Partnership

Key (A/V) = Audio and visual presence
(A) = Audio presence

97. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs M. Downward and S. Jones.

98. SAFER STREETS SCHEME

The Chair welcomed representatives from N. Wales Police, Wrexham Council and Caia Park Partnership to the meeting to outline the details of the Safer Streets Initiative. Members were advised that Queensway Ward had been allocated £550k of funding out of a Home Office allocation across the country of £25m. It is primarily overseen by the Police & Crime Commissioner's Office but administered locally in terms of project management. The main aim is to make residents feel safer and reduce acquisitive crime

Projects identified and prioritised include enhanced CCTV including automatic number plate recognition at selected locations, demolition of disused garage blocks replaced with improved lighting and car parking, alley gating and fencing. Some garage blocks in Y Wern and Bryn Hafod had already been demolished and consultation with residents had taken place regarding alley gating.

Other projects included target hardening/crime prevention (by acquiring specific packs, householder lighting packs etc.) promoting a Neighbourhood Watch scheme and environmental projects such as the removal of the rocks feature in Y Wern and addressing the underpass/tunnel on the Queensway (It was felt that it would not be possible to close this off in the short/medium term). Community engagement was also important and Caia Park Partnership were involved with the more direct projects such as target hardening and community engagement.

The representatives were thanked for the presentation and Members supported the action taken to date.

99. DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS INTERESTS

There were no Members interests declared.

100. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on 10th December 2020 be accepted as a true and accurate record.

Arising:

(i) POLICE MATTERS (PM 87)

The Chair advised that he had not managed to contact the Inspector regarding crime numbers and that he had recently moved from his role in Wrexham. The Clerk agreed to take the matter up with the new Inspector.

101. POLICE MATTERS

The Clerk mentioned that he had previously circulated the report prepared by the PCSO for the community and that the statistics from the national Police Website were attached to the agenda for information.

A Member referred to an incident which occurred over the Christmas holidays and that he was unable to contact a PCSO or P.C. from the contact numbers provided. As a result, 999 was dialed for assistance. The matter had been taken up with the Inspector with a suggestion that a list of holiday cover and contact numbers should be provided.

102. MEMBERS REPORTS

Cllr. B. Cameron – Updated Members with the revised work schedule for the refurbishment of the Pentre Gwyn Play area (start ate now 21st Jan for 2/3 weeks)

Cllrs. B. Halley – Referred to the pleasing improvement work/clearance along the river bank through the Queensway Ward.

Cllr A. Jeorrett – Mentioned difficulties and issues with grass cutting in the area of Portal Avenue.

103. CORRESPONDENCE

(i) Wales Audit Office

The Clerk reported that Wales Audit had circulated a schedule for external audits to be carried out by them annually over the next three years. It was noted that Caia Park Community Council would be subject to an in-depth audit year ending March 2021 and then two subsequent “light touch” audits in 2022 and 2023.

Received following publication of agenda

(ii) Wrexham County Borough Council – Draft Service Level Agreement for 2021/22 for the maintenance and inspection of play areas.

RESOLVED: *To agree to the service level agreement as outlined and sign accordingly.*

(iii) Defibrillators at Welsh Hearts – Promotional literature supporting the use of defibrillators in the community and offering support to those councils who wish to participate. Members considered possible locations and felt that they would need to be located in areas of high visibility such as adjacent to shops or public premises.

RESOLVED: *That the Clerk make further enquiries regarding cost and installation and that the Co-op in Prince Charles Road, Premier Stores at Abenbury Road and one of the parade of shops at Kinglsey Circle be approached to see if they would agree to be a possible location.*

104. PROPOSAL FOR MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT WORKER. (PM 90)

The Clerk presented a further updated report on a proposal put forward by MIND and Caia Park Partnership to employ a mental health support worker within the community. It was reported that additional funding was now likely to be available from Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB) and with the contributions from the Community Council and Caia Park Partnership a full-time worker could be employed from April 2021. MIND would be responsible for the recruitment and management of the worker, and answerable to its partners in terms of service delivery.

The Chair referred to a paper he had prepared in advance of the meeting circulated by the Clerk to Members which articulated some concerns he had, given that mental health is a very complex area and support offered needed to be appropriate and tailored to the individual to avoid further issues. He felt that targets of engaging with clients within a 7-day period were ambitious and questioned whether a 40 minute assessment or 20 minutes appointment would be adequate or appropriate in all cases. He questioned whether the project was rushed and felt it was important to get things right to increase the chances of success.

Other Members felt that it was an opportunity not to be missed at these difficult times with Covid 19 and the evidence of mental health issues within the community. They felt that this was an opportunity to pilot a community-based scheme and that the opportunity, given grant funding from other sources, should not be missed. It was explained that this was not a new project but tried and tested elsewhere and that BCUHB were promoting and encouraging hubs across N. Wales. It was felt that the risk of not doing something now is greater than leaving things for another year.

Following discussion, it was unanimously **RESOLVED:**

(i) To fund the MIND proposal at the cost outlined commencing April 2021. (Funded from slippage in the 2020-21 budget)

(ii) That going forward, further discussion be held with MIND and other partners to ensure the success and sustainability of the project.

105. BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2021-22

The Clerk reminded Members that in November 2020 Council agreed in principle to set the precept requirement for 2012-22 at £60 per Band D equivalent property after considering a draft budget. It is necessary to formally submit the precept requirements to Wrexham CBC by 15th January.

Members were reminded that a projected surplus at the end of Financial Year 2022 was £8523 on the assumption that the delivery of services would be back to normal in year following Covid 19 and that existing service level agreements are continued. Due to a change in the property base, this has increased to £10,383. It was also highlighted that the 2020-21 budget was likely to see a larger surplus at year end due to the withdrawal of play services at Gwenfro Valley due to Covid 19 and the school crossing vacancy which had

not yet been filled. This underspend is now projected at £20,202 of which £8226 has just been committed to the mental health worker.

Following discussion it was **RESOLVED:**

- (i) *To inform Wrexham CBC that the precept requirement of 2021-22 is £60 per Band D equivalent property yielding £230,040 based on 3834 property tax base.*
- (ii) *That existing service level agreements are discussed with partners to establish what can be delivered within the limits of Covid 19 and reported back to Council to consider if deletions or amendments should be made.*
- (iii) *That the contribution to the costs of the mental health worker as agreed earlier in the meeting be met from slippage in the budget.*

106. REVIEW OF STANDING ORDERS, FINANCIAL REGULATIONS & INVESTMENT STRATEGY

The Clerk reminded Members that it was a requirement to annually consider these documents.

In terms of standing orders, there had been no changes suggested at both internal and external audit and there had been no changes in year to the model regulation.

A point was raised by internal audit regarding the financial regulation and compliance with s10.1 which required purchase orders to be issued for goods/services which was not being complied with. The Clerk advised that the wording of the section was not practical and somewhat out of date, given the use of the internet and emails for ordering. Significant purchases were usually with providers via a service level agreement and as such this signed document acted as a purchase order. It was suggested that s10.1 & 2 be reworded.

With regard to the investment strategy, little had changed in-year and it was difficult to change the current situation or find any accounts that would yield significantly higher rates of interest.

RESOLVED:

- (i) *That the Standing Orders and Investment Strategy remain unaltered.*
- (ii) *That the Financial Regulations be amended to read:*
“10.1 An official order, letter or confirming email shall be issued for work, goods and services with a value in excess of £1000 unless a formal contract or service level agreement is to be prepared or an official order would be inappropriate. Evidence of arrangements should be retained with the final invoice.
10.2 Any order books shall be controlled by the RFO”

107. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The following application was considered:

- (i) **P/2020/0809 Unit 1 Holt Street, Wrexham**
1 no. Internally illuminated sign.

RESOLVED: No objection

(Members queried if the current building work being undertaken on site had consent)

108. FINANCIAL MONITORING

The Financial Statement for period ending 31st December 2020 was submitted.

RESOLVED: That the financial statement for the period be received and adopted.

109. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

RESOLVED: That the accounts for payment in January be approved:

D.D.	Pace Telecom	CAS	*	385.41	
		General Admin	*	<u>256.94</u>	642.35
D.D.	O2	CAS/Comm Agents	*		60.00
D.D.	SSE (Elect)	Prince Charles Road	*		13.17
<hr/>					
Accounts above the line have already been paid either by direct debit or in the case of cheques, because they were deemed to be urgent or previously agreed)					
D.D.	WCBC	Prince Charles Road			527.00 (Rates)
D.D.	Natwest card (Zoom month 8)	General Admin	*		14.39
D.D.	Hafren Dyfrdwy	Prince Charles Road			6.61 (Water rates)
7599	JDH Business Services	General Admin	*		1200.00
7588	Wrexham CBC	Amenity/Environ	*		337.00 (play ground repairs)
7588	Wrexham CBC	Amenity/Environ	*		1472.40 (play ground repairs)
7588	Wrexham CBC	Children's Services	*		3180.67 (Sch crossings Q2)
7588	Wrexham CBC	Children's Services	*		8394.90 (Play areas) **
7589	Information Commissioner	General Admin			40.00
7590	Audit Wales	General Admin			262.25
7591	SLCC	General Admin			208.00
	ALCC NATWEST Card	General Admin			40.00
7592	Caia Park Partnership	Children's services Q4			2000.00**
7593	Petty cash	CAS/General Admin			80.00
7595	J. Evans	(Expenses Jan)			
7594	J. Carter	(Expenses Jan)			
7596	H.M. Revenue & Customs	Tax NI (Jan)			
7597	Clwyd Pension Services	Pension contributions			

*Figs include VAT which is reclaimable

** Reported at the meeting (received after agenda had been published)